## Clean Version of Amended Claims

- 1 (Original). A composition for treating or preventing an inflammatory or hyperproliferative mucocutaneous disorder, comprising a protease inhibitor and a gelling agent.
- 2 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, wherein the protease inhibitor is an alpha 1-antitrypsin.
- 3 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 2, wherein the alpha 1-antitrypsin is a natural, synthetic or recombinant alpha 1-antitrypsin.
- 4 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, wherein the protease inhibitor is a modified peptide, biologically active fragment, substantially homologous polypeptide, oligopeptide, homodimer, heterodimer, variant, derivative, and/or an analog of alpha 1-antitrypsin.
- 5 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, further comprising a physiological buffer at a pH from about 6 to about 9.
- 6 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 5, wherein the buffer has a pH of from about 6.5 to about 7.5.
- 7 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, wherein the gelling agent is hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyacrylic acid, a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block copolymer, or a combination thereof.
- 8 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, further comprising one or more pharmaceutically active agents.
  - 9 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, which is sterile.
- 10 (Currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition formulated for use in preventing or treating an inflammatory or hyperproliferative mucocutaneous disorder wherein

said composition comprises a protease inhibitor and a gelling agent, and a pharmaceutical carrier.

- 11 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is alpha 1-antitrypsin.
- 12 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 10, wherein the composition further comprises one or more of the following:
  - a physiological buffer at a pH from about 6 to about 9;
- a gelling agent that is hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyacrylic acid, a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block copolymer, or a combination thereof; and/or one or more pharmaceutically active agents.
  - 13 (Cancelled).
  - 14 (Cancelled).
  - 15 (Cancelled).
  - 16 (Original). A method of making a protease inhibitor gel composition, comprising:
  - (a) mixing a powdered gelling agent with an aqueous solution to form a gel;
  - (b) adjusting the pH of the gel to a pH of from about 5.5 to about 9.0;
  - (c) sterilizing the gel; and
  - (d) combining a protease inhibitor with the gel to form the protease inhibitor gel.
- 17 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 16, wherein the aqueous solution is a physiological buffer.
- 18 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 16, further comprising adjusting the pH of the protease inhibitor gel from about 5.5 to about 9.0.
- 19 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 16, wherein the protease inhibitor is an alpha 1-antitrypsin.

- 20 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 16, wherein the gelling agent is hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyacrylic acid, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block copolymer, or a combination thereof.
- 21 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 16, wherein the sterilizing comprises irradiation.
- 22 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 16, further comprising lyophilizing the protease inhibitor gel.
- 23 (Currently amended). A method for the treatment or prevention of an inflammatory or hyperproliferative mucocutaneous disorder, wherein said method comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a protease inhibitor and a gelling agent.
- 24 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 23, wherein the protease inhibitor is an alpha-1 antitrypsin.
- 25 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 23, wherein the composition further comprises a physiological buffer at a pH from about 6 to about 9.
- 26 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 25, wherein the buffer has a pH of from about 6.5 to about 7.5.
- 27 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 23, wherein the gelling agent is hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyacrylic acid, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block copolymer, or a combination thereof.
- 28 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 24, wherein the alpha 1-antitrypsin is a natural, synthetic or recombinant alpha 1-antitrypsin.
- 29 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 23, wherein the composition further comprises one or more pharmaceutically active agents.

- 30 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 23, wherein the disorder is a dermatological disorder, disorder of the ear, ocular disorder, disorder of the gastrointestinal tract, or disorder of the urinary tract.
- 31 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 23, wherein the disorder is a dermatological disorder selected from the group consisting of atopic dermatitis; skin photodamage; extrinsic skin aging; skin irritation; chronic, burn and ulcer wounds; acne; psoriasis; lichen (particularly lichen planus); basal or squamous cell carcinoma (Bowen's disease); Kaposi's sarcoma; keratosis, such as actinic or seborrheic keratosis; and disorders of keratinization, such as ichthyosis (particularly lamellar ichthyosis) and keratoderma.
- 32 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 23, wherein the disorder is otitis, conjunctivitis, colitis or intestinal cystitis.
- 33 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 23, wherein the subject is a mammal.